



**DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD
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CAJS-FP

16 February 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR

Maj Gen Barrow, DAG, Joint Staff
Maj Gen Gibson, DAG, Air
BG Eres, Cdr, CA ARNG

SUBJECT: Operation Ready Families Program

1. Reference memorandum, CAJS-FP, 15 October 1999, subject: The Adjutant General's Intent – Operation Ready Families Program

2. Over the past two years, we have made strong strides in meeting our family readiness goals in the California National Guard. There is a new seriousness throughout all levels of the Chain of Command – a heightened recognition of the role our families and loved ones play in the total force readiness of our Guard. One key event that helped raise our awareness was last September's Symposium on the National Guard Family. Over 200 family volunteers and Guardmembers gathered in Anaheim to examine key issues and set vision and goals for the coming years. As you will see in the attached Senior Command Vision and Goals Statements from that meeting, we know the direction we need to move and have set the wheels in motion.

3. At the state level, our Operation Ready Families Program is also pushing to ensure it provides the essential resources and training needed to assist units in their advancement from basic to progressive Family Readiness. These initiatives include:

a. Basic and Advanced Course for Unit Volunteer Leaders: Each course will be conducted twice over the next few months. Information has been sent to all units through email and "snailmail," and is also available on the Operation Ready Families Program website (www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies).

b. Funding for ARNG and Joint Senior Commands: We have contacted National Guard Bureau and have been granted approval for a test of Family Readiness funding at 40th Infantry Division, 49th Combat Support Command, and Counterdrug.

c. All-Encompassing Handbook on Family Readiness: We are preparing a "one-stop" document that will allow commanders/NCO leaders, family volunteers, soldiers/airmen and their families to learn all that is essential in a Family Readiness program.

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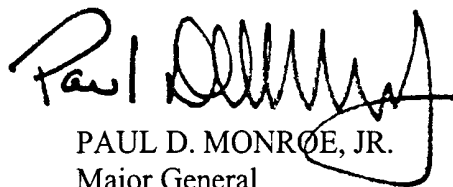
4. Another initiative working in Operation Ready Families is "Guard Our Kids." The primary goal of Guard Our Kids is to provide a program to Senior Commands that will impact the readiness of the total family and the retention of quality soldiers and airmen. Guard Our Kids will highlight activities, resources, and training designed especially for Guard kids and their parents. A committee is developing the initial information and guidelines; their work will be published to the field in the next two months. This is a voluntary program that is designed as a resource and opportunity for our Senior Commands, their units and their members. Some of the activities will include:

a. Programs to acquaint our children to the National Guard and what their parents do that so often takes them away from home. These activities will include "Take Your Kid to Drill" and "Guard Scouts."

b. Symposia and Training to help both our youth and their soldier/airmen parents better deal with life both inside and outside the Guard.

c. Special youth training/activities for units that are deployed for an extended period of time.

5. I renew the commitment expressed in the reference memorandum. Our families and their readiness are as essential to our success as anything we do. We can train and supply our soldiers and airmen to the best of our ability; but if their families are not trained and supplied with the skills and resources they need to contribute to the mission, our efforts will not matter. I expect all leaders (officer and NCO) to renew their own commitment to the readiness of their unit's families; I expect all soldiers and airmen to be accountable in preparing their families for the missions they will undertake; I highly encourage families and loved ones to participate with the California National Guard as we serve our community, our state, and our country.



PAUL D. MONROE, JR.
Major General
The Adjutant General

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